WETA
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Washington, D.C. 20001
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October 1, 1971

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Your taking the trouble to write us your reactions about the prospective demise of NEWSROOM is appreciated.

As you know, I left NEWSROOM last February and have not been involved in its management and direction since then. No doubt Mr. Maerki has advised you of his reasons for not giving attention to your book.

Your letter raises a more general question to which I would like to reply. You refer to "the false pretense of public TV news." There has never been any pretense of covering the news, as such. We have not allocated our resources to compete with the commercial networks and affiliated stations in conventional news coverage. We do attempt in our public affairs coverage to deal with major issues in the news as they appear. We also endeavor to provide access to divergent viewpoints on matters of local interest in our OPEN AIR program. Have you seen it? I would be interested in your reaction.

Sincerely,

Ben W. Gilbert

Ben W. Gilbert

BWG/cc